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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
EB-08 OES-06 COME-00 CU-02 /076 W
----------312105Z 125430 /66
R 311613Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3147
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0505

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, CZ, NO
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77: WHO WILL BLINK FIRST?

1. CONTINUING TO REGISTER THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH GOC'S TREATMENT OF CARTER 77 SIGNATORIES, GON INFORMED PRAGUE JANUARY 28TH THAT IT WOULD BE "INOPPORTUNE" FOR CZECHOSLAVAK FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER TO VISIT NORWAY AS PLANNED TO SIGN A COMMERCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. THE SAME DAY THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED THAT ITS MINISTER GJERDE WAS CANCELLING HIS PLANNED VISIT TO PRAGUE.

2. ON JANUARY 31 THE CZECH FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN THE NORWEGIAN CHARGE IN PRAGUE AND INFORMED HIM THAT NORWAY'S RECENT ACTIONS CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND AS SUCH WERE VIOLATIONS OF THE FINAL HELSINKI ACT WHICH COULD LEAD TO GOC RETALIATION.

3. MRS. BEATE ALVEGARD, ACTING DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICE OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO EMBOFF AT STRONG TONE OF CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENT CONSIDERING IT OVER REACTION. ACCORDING TO ALVEGARD, GON WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DESISTED FROM FURTHER ACTIONS IN THE CASE ABSENT STRONG PARLIAMENTARY SENTIMENT TO THE CONTRARY PRIOR TO CZECH'S JANUARY 31 DEMARCHE. HOWEVER, WHOLE CASE WAS NOW ESCALATED AND IT WAS LIKELY THAT OSLO WOULD HAVE TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS IN

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VIEW OF GOC'S IMPLIED THREAT. ALVEGARD SEEMED DOUBTFUL AS
TO WHAT CZECHS COULD ACTUALLY DO.

4. THERE ARE TWO NORWEGIAN/CZECH ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD SERVE
AS TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GON; THE FIRST IS A LONG
PLANNED CZECH TEXTILE EXPOSITION WHICH IS TO OPEN IN OSLO IN
THE NEAR FUTURE AND THE SECOND IS A CZECH REQUEST FOR GON TO
SPONSOR A FILM FESTIVAL IN RETURN FOR ONE HELD LAST YEAR IN
OSLO.

5. GON WILL MEET LATER TODAY TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES
COURSES BEFORE FEB 1 STORTING DEBATE OPENS.

6. COMMENT: NORWAY PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS PROMINENT ROLE IN
THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AND IS DERIVING A GOOD BIT OF SATISFACTION
FROM THEIR CARTA 77 STANCE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM THEY WERE
A LITTLE TAKEN ABACK BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S STRONG REACTION.
FRYDENLUND RAISED THE CHARTER 77 ITEM AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED
COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING AND PLANS TO HAVE IT RAISED
AT THE CSCE EXPERTS MEETING IN NATO FEBRUARY 8TH.

7. GIVEN FRYDENLUND'S NORMAL CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND HIS NORMAL AVOIDANCE OF CONTROVERSY AND DISCORD,
HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE PREFERRED TO LET THE MATTER DIE AFTER THE
INITIAL GON EXPRESSION OF DISPLEASURE. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE
JANUARY 31 RESPONSE BY THE GOC COUPLED WITH THE UPCOMING
STORTING FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE AND THE ONGOING ELECTION
CAMPAIGN (AND FRYDENLUND'S VULNERABILITY THEREIN) IT IS LIKELY
THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL
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BE FORCED TO TAKE A STRONGER POSITION THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE THE
CASE. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, THEREFORE, THAT OSLO MIGHT CHOOSE
TO EITHER CANCEL THE LONG PLANNED TEXTILE EXHIBITION OR DENY
THE REQUEST FOR THE NORWEGIAN FILM WEEK, AS EVIDENCE OF
THEIR SERIOUSNESS AND STEADFASTNESS.
ANDERS

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# Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
**Expiration:**
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Page Count:** 2
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**Subject:** CHARTER 77: WHO WILL BLINK FIRST?
**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, CZ, NO, CSCE, (GJERDE, BJARTMAR)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009